

ABSTRACT

A snapshot copy facility stores snapshot copies of a production file system. The snapshot copy facility receives a request for the difference between a specified older snapshot copy and a specified younger snapshot copy, and responds by returning the difference between the older snapshot copy and the younger snapshot copy. In a preferred implementation, the snapshot copy facility has an index for each snapshot copy for indicating blocks of data in the production file system that have changed between the snapshot copy and a next snapshot copy of the production file system. The indices are scanned for a sequence of the snapshot copies to determine the blocks that have changed, and the snapshot copy facility returns the block numbers and data in the younger snapshot copy for the blocks that have changed.